

What is claimed is:

1. A lighting device having a selectably changeable shape.
- 5 2. The lighting device according to claim 1, comprising:  
a flexible lighting element; and  
an adjustable shape-retaining element coupled to said flexible lighting  
element.
- 10 3. The lighting device according to claim 2, wherein said adjustable  
shape-retaining element is integrally formed with said flexible lighting  
element.
- 15 4. The lighting device according to claim 3, wherein:  
said flexible lighting element includes a plurality of tiny light bulbs  
molded in a plastic tube; and  
said adjustable shape-retaining element is molded in said plastic tube.
- 20 5. The lighting device according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a translucent flexible covering coupled about said flexible lighting  
element.
- 25 6. The lighting device according to claim 5, wherein said flexible  
covering is transparent.
7. The lighting device according to claim 1, comprising a flexible lighting  
element mounted in a translucent, flexible covering, said flexible covering  
including an adjustable shape-retaining element.



17. The method according to claim 15, wherein said flexible covering is transparent.

5 18. The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of coupling includes incorporating an adjustable shape-retaining element in the flexible covering.

10 19. The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of coupling includes incorporating an adjustable shape-retaining element in the flexible covering.